

# The Surprise of Revival

Mark 4:26-29

“Faithful Narrative of the Surprising Work of God in the Conversion of Many Hundred Souls in Northampton, and the Neighboring Towns and Villages.” – Jonathan Edwards (1736)



# The surprise of revival is Scriptural.

- Mark 4:27
  - “And should sleep”; “he knoweth not how”
- John 3:8
  - “canst not tell whence it cometh, and wither it goeth”
- Eph. 3:20
  - “exceedingly abundantly above all we ask or think”
- 1 Cor. 3:7
  - “neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth”



# The surprise of revival is controversial.

- James Davenport, *Confessions and Retractions* (1744):

“[I am] fully convinced and persuaded that several Appendages to this glorious Work are no essential Parts thereof, but of a different and contrary Nature and Tendency, which I promoted under a misguided Zeal and the influence of a false Spirit.”

- Charles Finney, *Letters on Revival* (1845):

“When I first began to preach, I was without knowledge and without experience on the subject of revivals. I can see that in some things I erred in manner and spirit; which things I want to point out both by way of confessing my own faults and as a warning to others.”



# The surprise of revival is unusual.

- Ebenezer Porter – Lectures on Revival (1832):

“It cannot be doubted, that there is sometimes a sovereign withdrawal of divine influence from a church, when no special reason is apparent to us why it should be so, at that time rather than another.”

- Paul to Timothy (A.D. 66):

“Preach the Word. Be instant in season and out of season” (2 Tim. 4:2).

